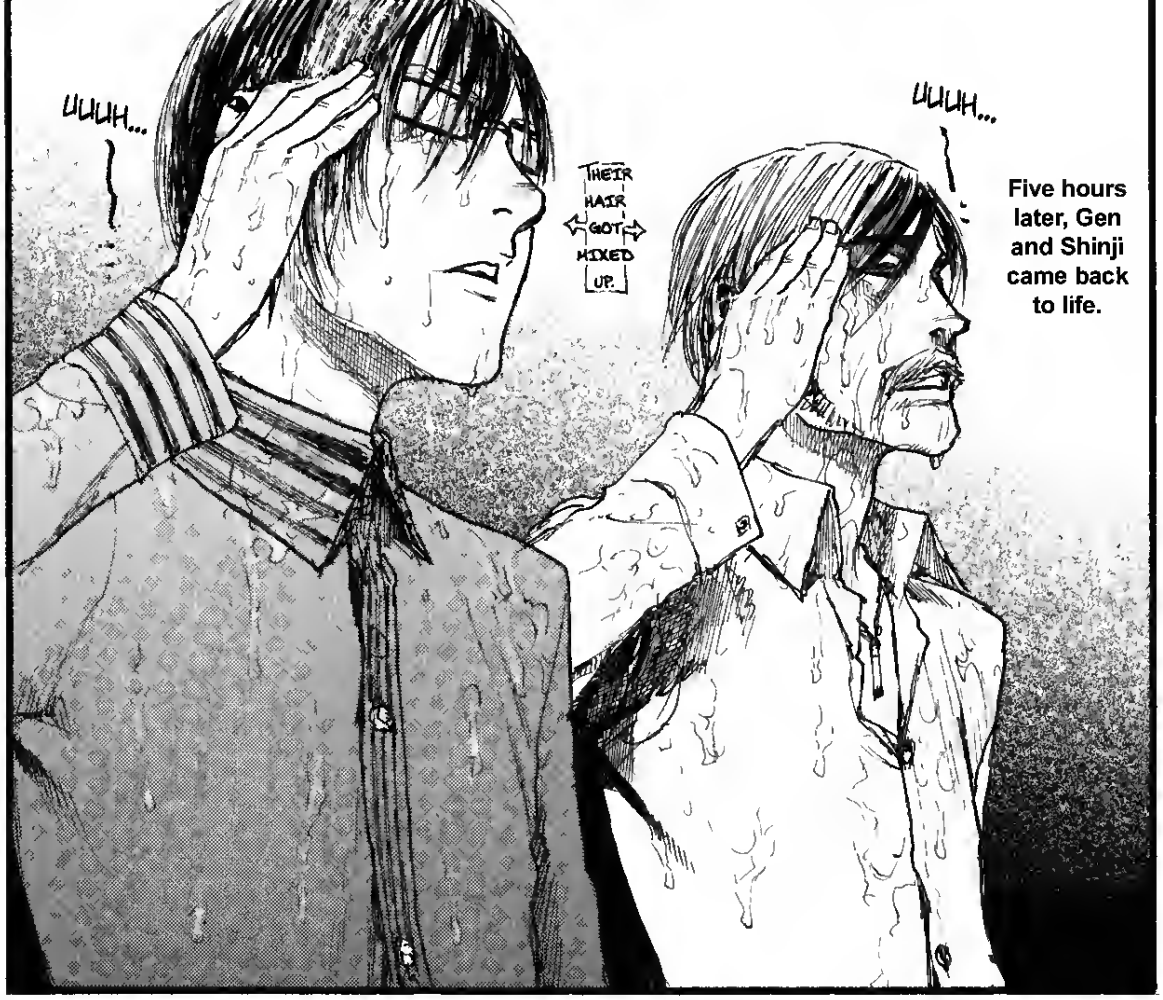
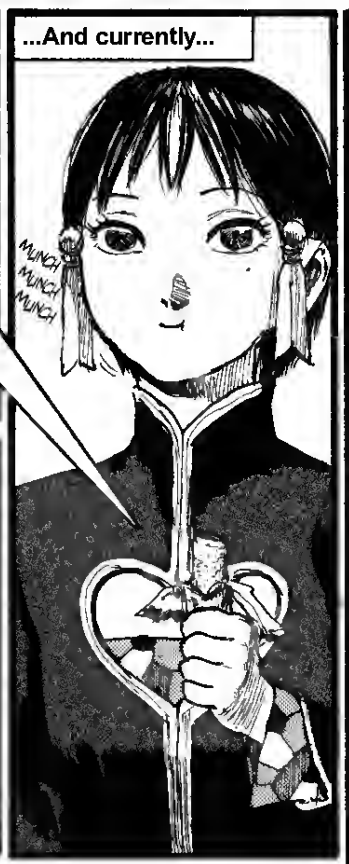
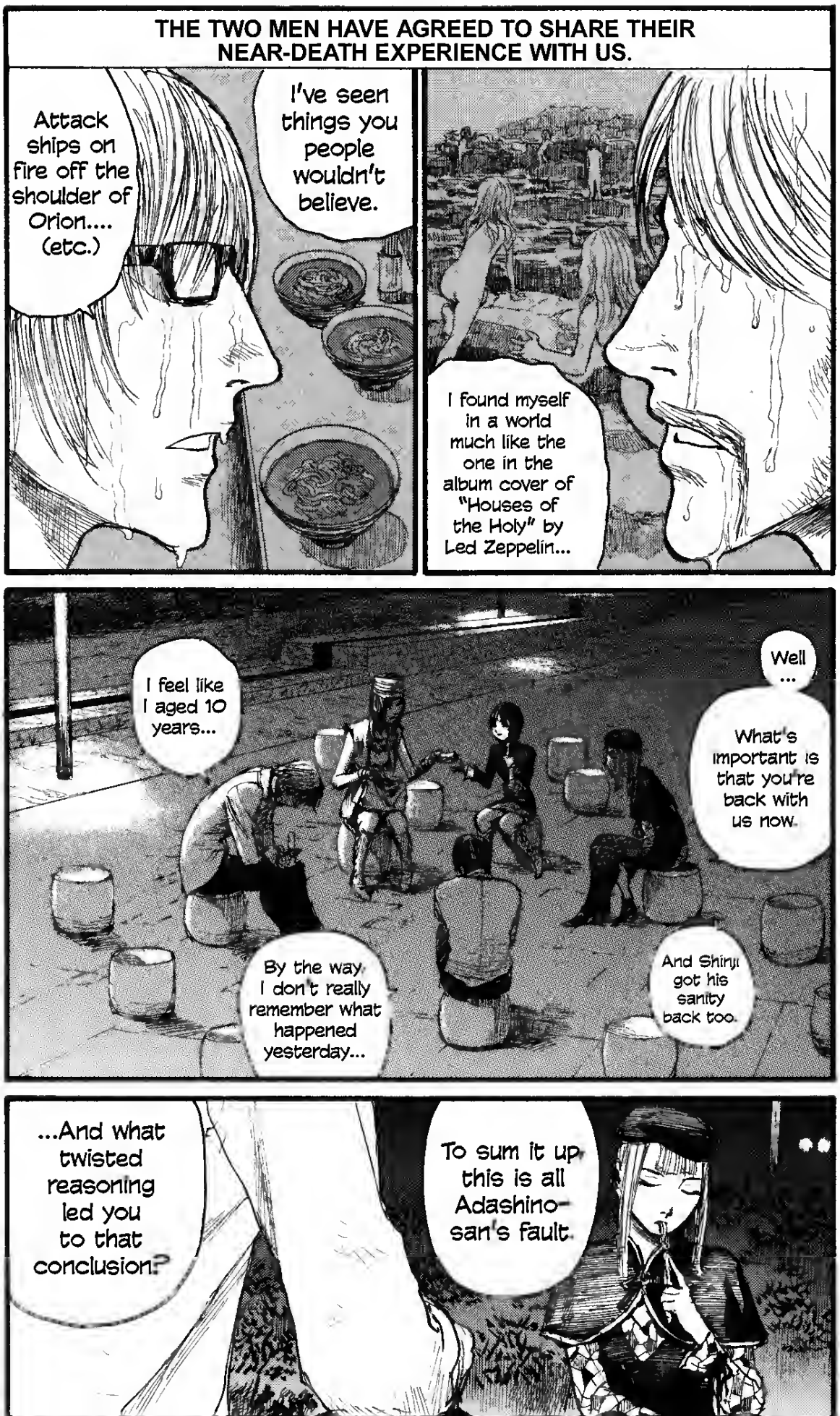
#3 NAVIGATOR


UUUH...
THEIR HAIR GOT MIXED UP.
UUUH...
Five hours later, Gen and Shinji came back to life.

Dragons' Umai Bou
The first collaboration between the Chunichi Dragons baseball team from Aichi and the puffed corn snack Umai Bou!!!
It was my duty as a local to buy a pack of them.
A gift from Miss Metako (native of Aichi).

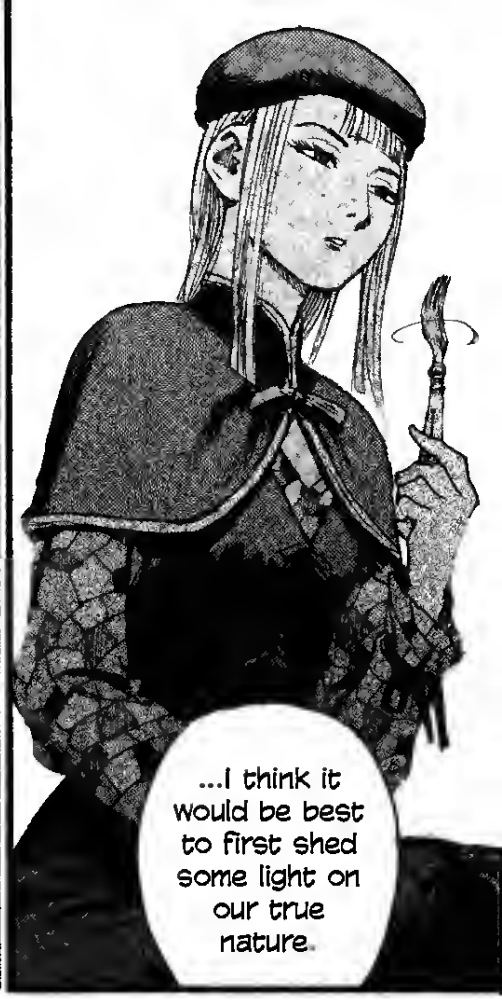

...And currently...
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

Hyos, right after their resurrection...
HUFF...
HUFF...
AH...


THE TWO MEN HAVE AGREED TO SHARE THEIR NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE WITH US.
Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion.... (etc.)
I've seen things you people wouldn't believe.
I found myself in a world much like the one in the album cover of "Houses of the Holy" by Led Zeppelin...
I feel like I aged 10 years...
By the way I don't really remember what happened yesterday...
Well ...
What's important is that you're back with us now.
And Shinji got his sanity back too.
...And what twisted reasoning led you to that conclusion?
To sum it up this is all Adashino-san's fault.

...Huh ?!
Is that from Tolstoy or something?

Ada-shino-san...
What is the meaning of life for human beings?


...I think it would be best to first shed some light on our true nature.

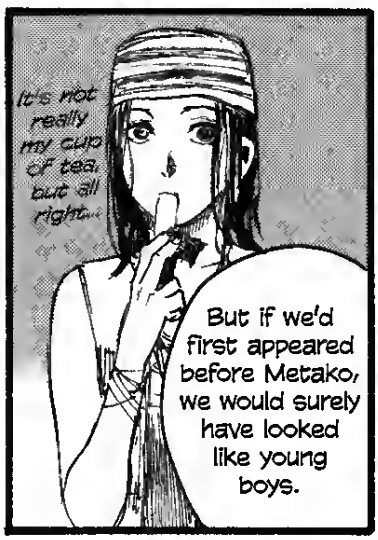
I'd like to understand what kind of future you're striving towards from your current life..
Ah, ok... Well, I want to get my company back on track...
Get my family back...
And uh... Eventually retire someday?

Hyos and I live only to eat.
There's more to it than just the survival aspect. It's the very reason of our existence.

What about you, Metako?
Uh... I'd love to own a Lamborghini Murcielago...
And to buy the luxury Zaboo Spa in Roppongi and reopen it.
What's the point of reopening it?
At least she's honest...

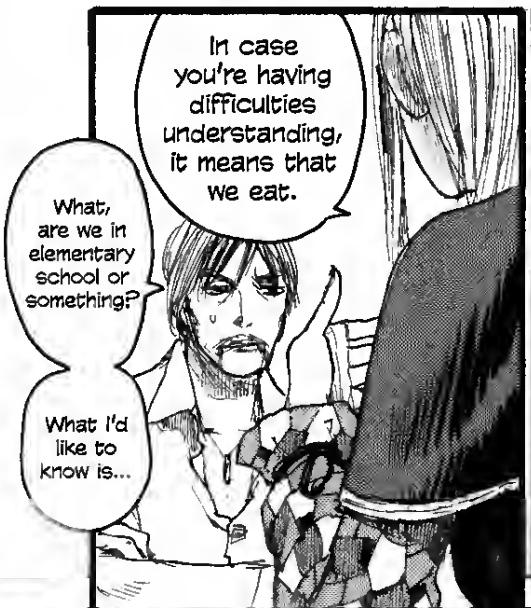
And you, Shinji?
That's enough, thank you.

...and we put ourselves under the protection of an adult specimen, all the while studying his way of life.
...We mimic the juvenile form of the dominant organism on that body...
Whenever we partake in feeding while we're on a foreign celestial body...

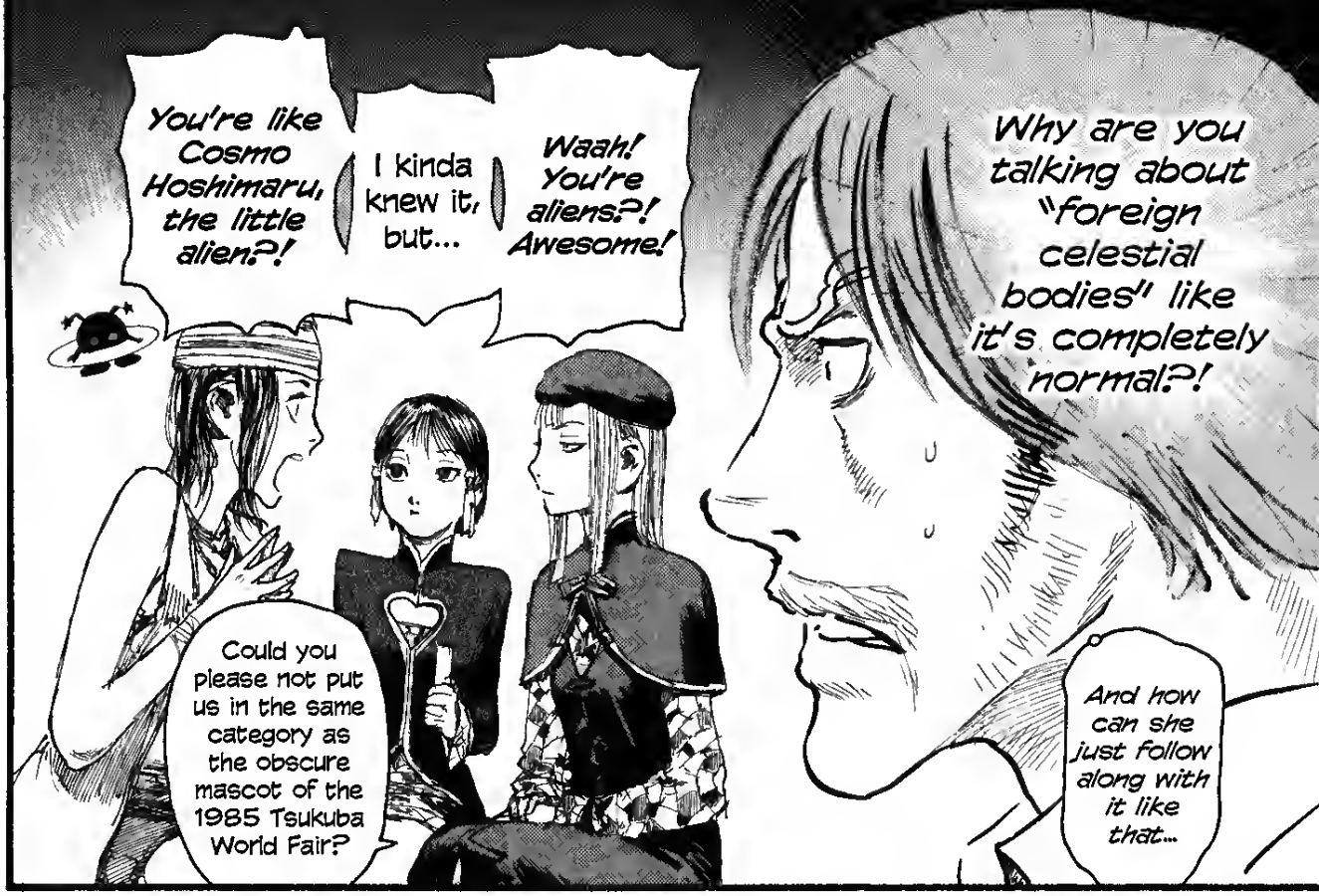

It's not really my cup of tea, but all right...
But if we'd first appeared before Metako, we would surely have looked like young boys.

For you, we're young women...

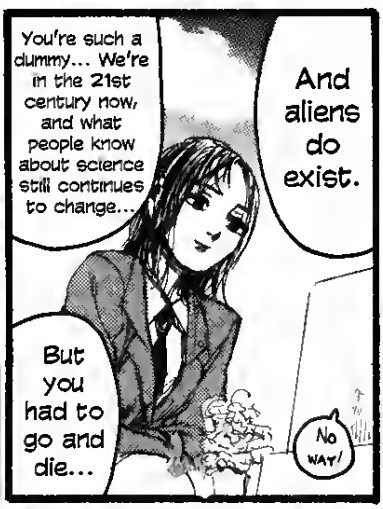
...Was defined when we materialized ourselves before you for the first time.
In other words, our outward appearance ...

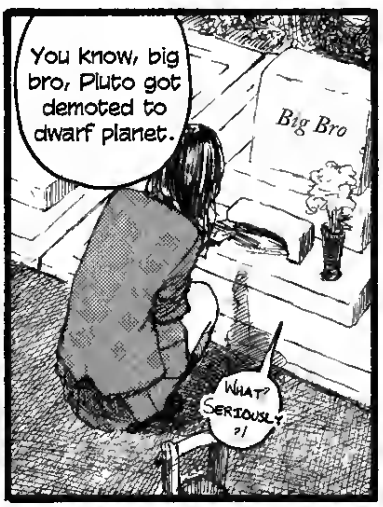

In case you're having difficulties understanding, it means that we eat.
What, are we in elementary school or something?
What I'd like to know is...

And then we procure sustenance ...
Thus, we establish a foundation for our behavior...


You're like Cosmo Hoshimaru, the little alien?!
I kinda knew it, but...
Waah! You're aliens?! Awesome!
Why are you talking about "foreign celestial bodies" like it's completely normal?!
Could you please not put us in the same category as the obscure mascot of the 1985 Tsukuba World Fair?
And how can she just follow along with it like that...

Ah, I see! Great, I'll be looking forward to it!
But to be honest, I loved you more than the space and the stars, y'know...
Will you stop it?

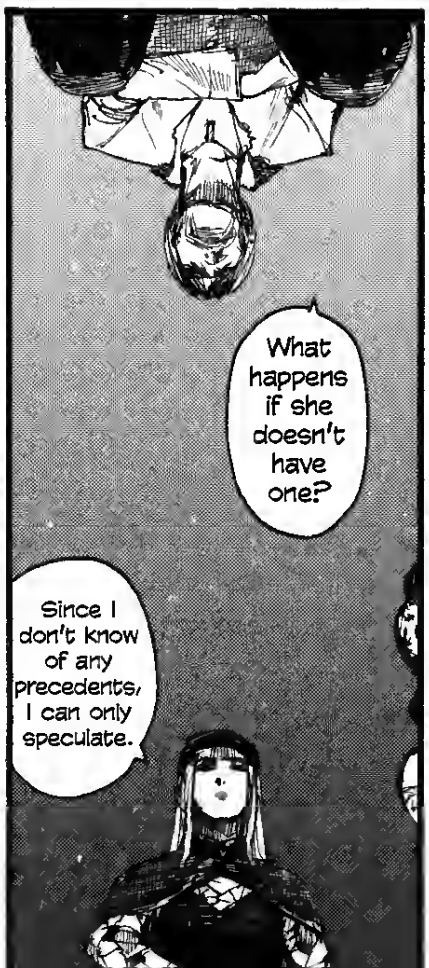

You're such a dummy... We're in the 21st century now, and what people know about science still continues to change...
And aliens do exist.
But you had to go and die...
No way!

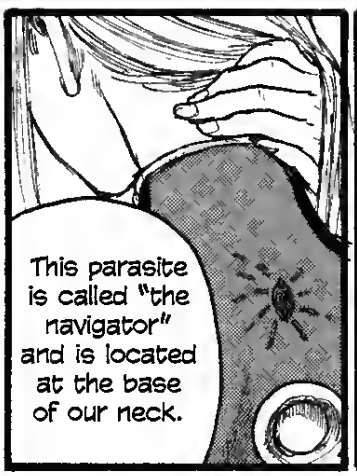

You know, big bro, Pluto got demoted to dwarf planet.
Big Bro
What? Seriously?!

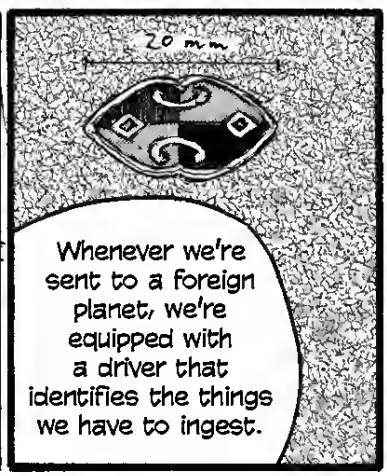
I don't see how any of this makes it my fault.
Like the anime adaptation of Sora no Manimani.
So what?
Kuhuhuhu... I see that this year, the year 2009, isn't the year of astronomy for nothing...
So many unforeseen events are happening one after another... It's so very interesting!

It seems that at the moment Hyos' decision making regarding what to eat is completely dependant on your conduct.
Adashino-san.

This is why...
We're anthropomorphous terminals whose only purpose is to extract chemical elements that our creators need.
Aw, too bad...
Sorry to disappoint you, Metako, but we're not the aliens that you were expecting.


What happens if she doesn't have one?
Since I don't know of any precedents, I can only speculate.


This parasite is called "the navigator" and is located at the base of our neck.


20 mm
Whenever we're sent to a foreign planet, we're equipped with a driver that identifies the things we have to ingest.

When I examined Hyos earlier, I didn't see where hers was.
Well, at least, that's where it's supposed to be...

Wait, who's her guardian? ...Don't tell me...
In the present case, it is of course you, Adashino-san.

The absence of a driver must be preventing her from acting rationally...
...And leave the decision of what she should consume to her guardian.
...It makes her look at the readers with puppy-dog eyes, like so...

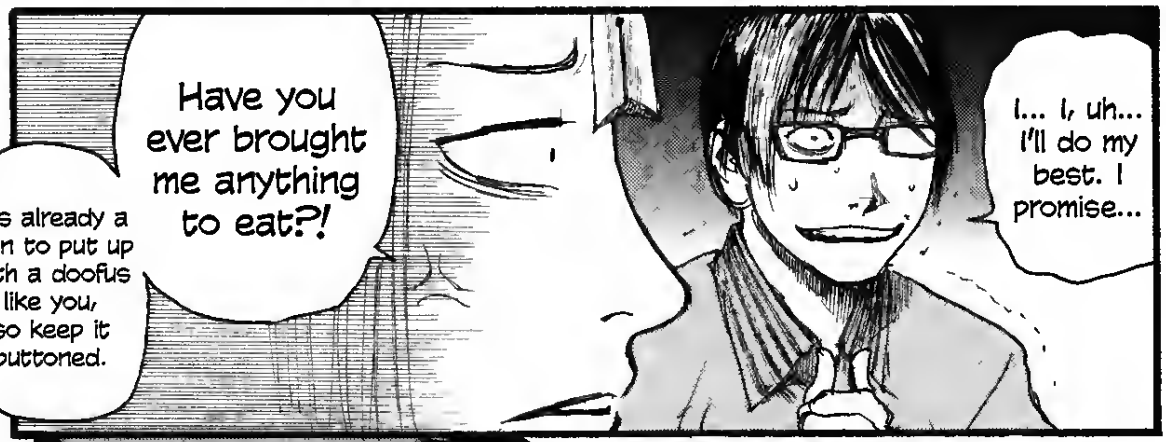
So, this means that I'm your guardian, huh?
Yes, but if you get carried away, you'll just be another stain on my boots...

No matter how hungry you may get, You must make sure that Hyos is fed at least once every eight hours.
She turns into a gremlin?
Or else...

Ada-shino-san.
We can only fast for so long.

I see...
She'll go into starvation overdrive from her empty stomach like she did in the afternoon and seek the protection of another adult.
In other words, she will deem you unfit to ensure her well-being.
That's convenient. I'll just let that happen then...
I already have a family of my own...

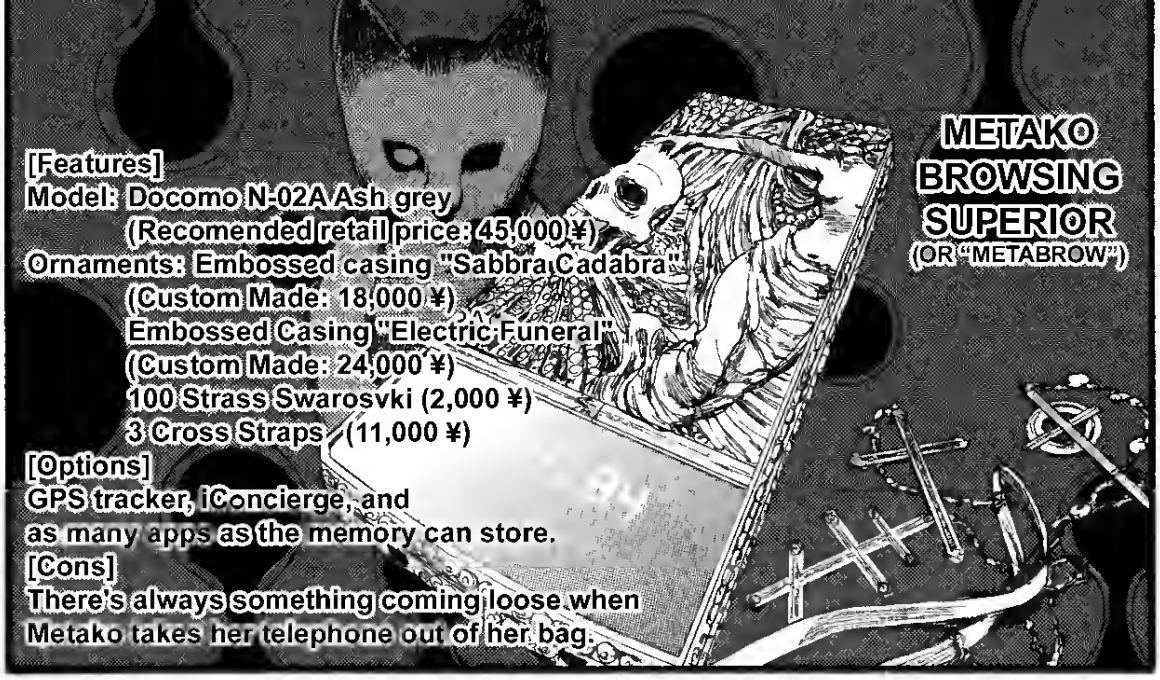
...Huh?!
ﾅﾛﾛ。。
Needless to say, Hyos will devour her guardian in the case that they are disqualified.

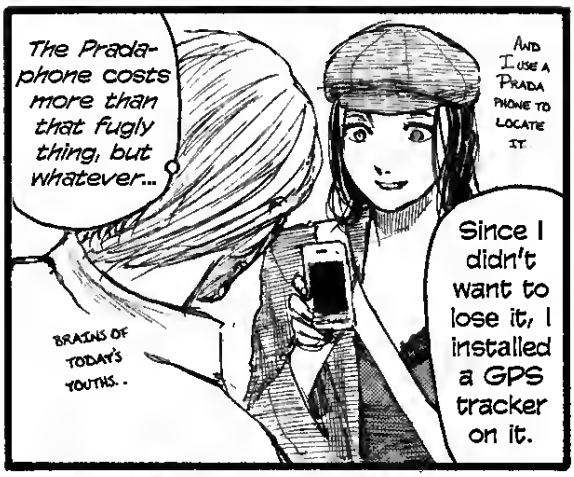

Have you ever brought me anything to eat?!
It's already a pain to put up with a doofus like you, so keep it buttoned.
I... I, uh... I'll do my best. I promise...

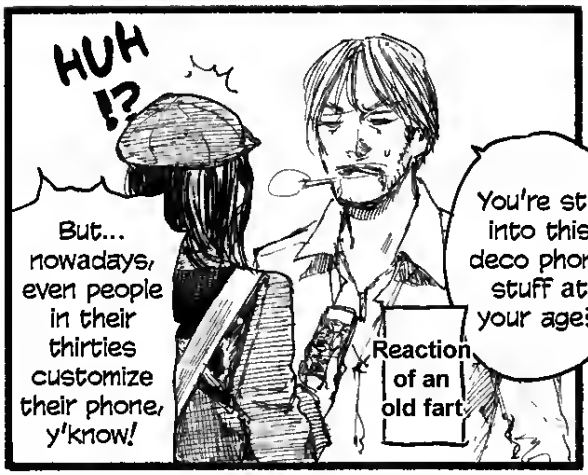
That way she'll be able to consume the appropriate food she needs on her own volition, just like me.
Find Hyos' navigator.
I-is there... anything that I might do to make things better, Triazole-san?
CARDIAC RHYTHM : 75 → 90
BLOOD PRESSURE : 135/85 → 150/100
LANGUAGE REGISTER : INFORMAL → FORMAL

—AM 10:30—
Even if her guardian is a starving hobo.
WHEN I'LL BE DYING BY THE ROADSIDE...
.....
.....
.....
I never thought that!
It's not like we've been eating much!
WELL, WELL...
And we thought we were in a culinary manga. Now we're in a fine mess...
POPS, SMOKING WHILE WALKING ISN'T A GOOD IDEA
I guess ...
...if I get eaten by the little one again, I probably can't expect to come back in one piece like this...
Hmm...
So, what do we do now?

We have to find a two centimeter object that fell somewhere on the riverbanks...
...by following the directions of a girl who can't act rationally
My navigator?
Yes, I lost it when I arrived.
Well, we just have to roll our sleeves up and divide the work between us.
Here, some snacks.
I love those!
THESE SNACKS ARE ALREADY COOKED, SO THEY WON'T GO BAD RIGHT AWAY
I wonder when I'll get to have a real meal...
Don't eat them all in one go, Hyos.
Hm? Ok!
And don't you go eating anything HUMAN-LOOKING while I have my back turned, understand!?
I've got one.
What?!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
If only we could keep track of her with a GPS app..."
Here.


METAKO BROWSING SUPERIOR
(OR "METABROW")
[Features]
Model: Docomo N-02A Ash grey
(Recomended retail price: 45,000 ¥)
Ornaments: Embossed casing "Sabbra Cadabra"
(Custom Made: 18,000 ¥)
Embossed Casing "Electric Funeral"
(Custom Made: 24,000 ¥)
100 Strass Swarosvki (2,000 ¥)
3 Cross Straps (11,000 ¥)
[Options]
GPS tracker, iConcierge, and
as many apps as the memory can store.
[Cons]
There's always something coming loose when
Metako takes her telephone out of her bag.


The Prada-phone costs more than that fugly thing, but whatever...
And I use a Prada phone to locate it
Since I didn't want to lose it, I installed a GPS tracker on it.
Brains of today's youths..


HUH !?
But... nowadays, even people in their thirties customize their phone, y'know!
You're still into this deco phone stuff at your age?
Reaction of an old fart

Lemme see... Ah, it's the star icon, right?
Actually, I've never used it before
I'll try giving it a test.

Huh?! What the hell, error ?!
What ?!

Here, Hyos. She's lending it to you.
Don't lose it, 'kay?
What's with that silly comment to the right?
.....
.....
.....
All of the accessories featured so far in this series are courtesy of our sponsor METAKO

BAD END

No.13 Munch

HINT

It seems that when Gen gave Metako's phone to Hyos, she thought she was authorized to eat it. Her behavior is certainly strange, to say the least, but if Gen had shown some common sense, he would've seen it coming, wouldn't he?

munchmunchmunchmunchmunch
munchmunchmunchmunchmunch
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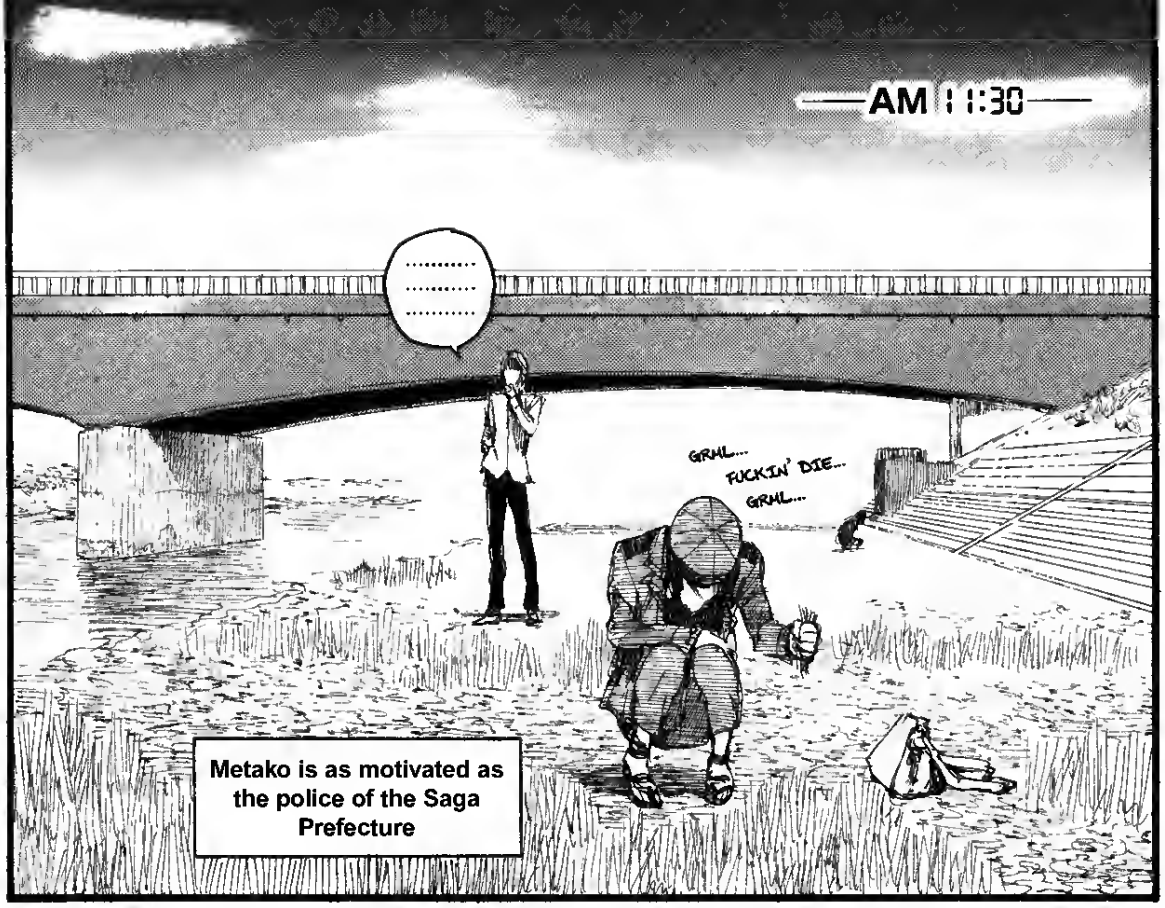
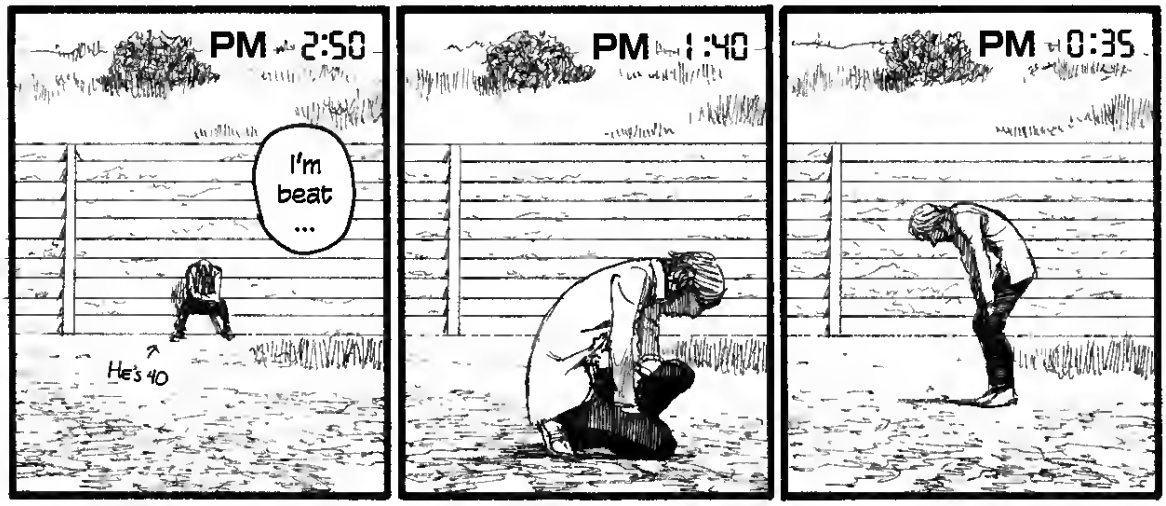
I'm sorry, it's my fault!
Calm down! I'll buy you another one (someday,) promise!
You maniacs! You blew it up! Ah, damn you! God damn you all to hell!
Metako is confused and attacked her own party!

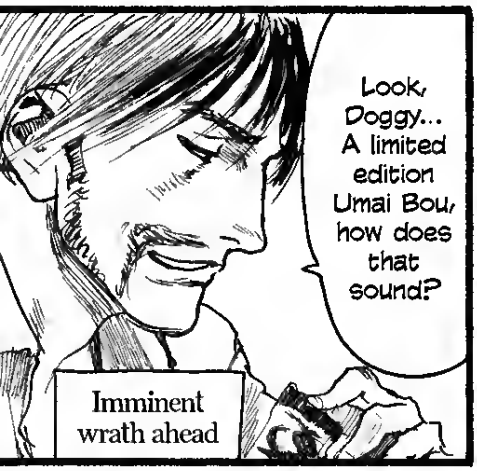

AM 11:30
.....
.....
.....
GRWL...
FUCKIN' DIE...
GRWL...
Metako is as motivated as the police of the Saga Prefecture


PM 2:50
I'm beat ...
He's 40
PM 1:40
PM 0:35

I can't believe it's only been two days since that girl showed up...
I've got the feeling that this place is gonna be seared into my memory...

A lot of things did happen, though...

What did I do to deserve this?
..Why do I have to struggle so much with ① when ② is going to be a real challenge already?
① Get rid of Hyos discreetly.
② Get my twenty million back and rebuild my company.
③ Get my wife and kid to come back home from my parents-in-law's house.
④ Kiss Hug (aiko)
But...


Look, Doggy... A limited edition Umai Bou, how does that sound?
Imminent wrath ahead

WHO'S YOUR MASTER, GEORGE ROMERO?
Yuk! What's that ragged ostrich?*
Uh... I mean, that ragged dog.
Trying to find something to eat, are ya?

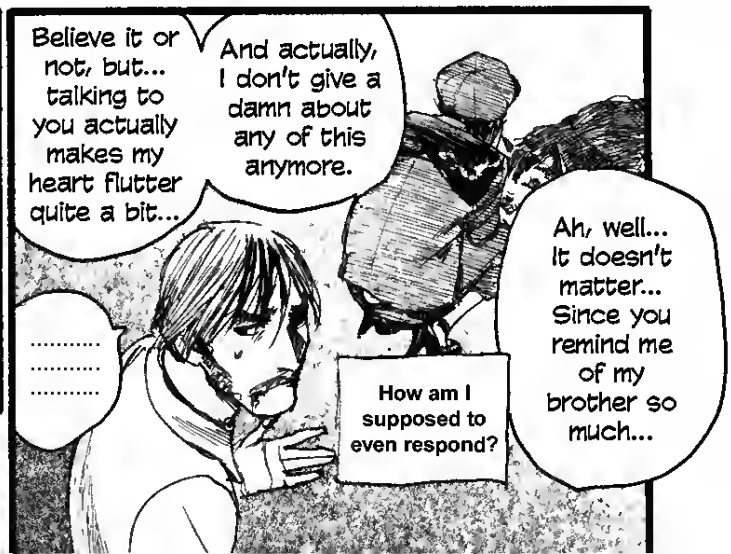
STINK
Sheesh!!

But I know why I'm doing this... This impulse of mine to be charitable, it's my only way of escaping reality.
Having him as our boss is gonna be expensive!*
Well, look at that! He wolfed it down in one gulp!
A delicious 100% natural treat...

Ah... Ok...
Why do I have such bad luck with women...
You scared me...
Nah, I'm kidding. I don't care.
Doesn't he look like a cross-breed with a zombie?
You're giving away the snack I so generously gave you...
Huh?! Uh... I shouldn't have? Sorry!
...to a mutt?
Ah! This framing, it's...

But I get where that four-eyes gets it from now. You're a natural leech!
Can I tell you something?
Uh...
Uh, I'd prefer to be called a natural manager.
That was supposed to be a thought bubble...
What the hell are you talking about, you fucking loser?! You're always mouthing off to make yourself look cool, but when the shit hits the fan, you always shove it onto us women!!
Eh?! "Bad luck with women"?!

Gen!
あぁ…

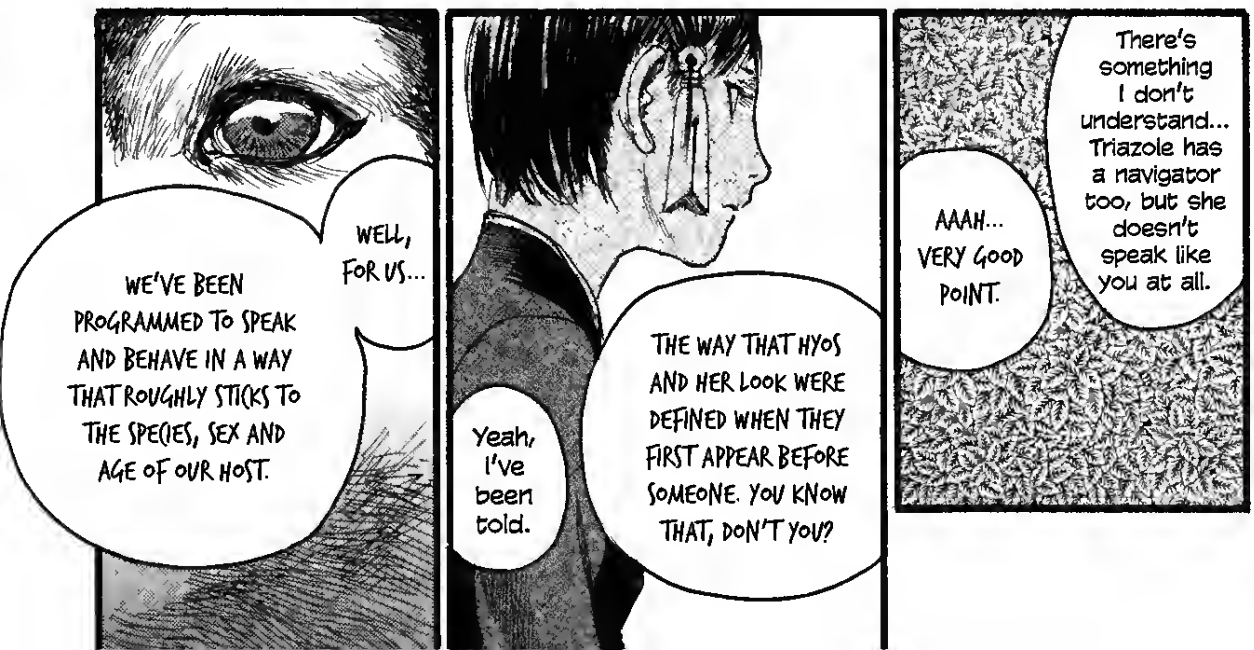

Believe it or not, but... talking to you actually makes my heart flutter quite a bit...
And actually, I don't give a damn about any of this anymore.
.....
.....
.....
How am I supposed to even respond?
Ah, well... It doesn't matter... Since you remind me of my brother so much...

Will I?
Be careful, or you're gonna get arrested for fraud.
She just has to pretend like she's a complete idiot, and she can get away with anything...
She's so lucky.
I won! I won!
Can I go to the store to collect the prize?!
A WINNER IS YOU!
It's so obvious that you wrote it yourself!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN WIN FROM UMAI BOU SNACKS!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! DROP THAT CHIKUWA NOW!
You watch a lot of TV, don't you? It shows when you get angry...
?
But when Shishimaru hunts, he does so with all his might, even if it's just for a rabbit...*
I'mma kill ya!
HYOS...
IS THAT YOU?
HY...
Huh?!

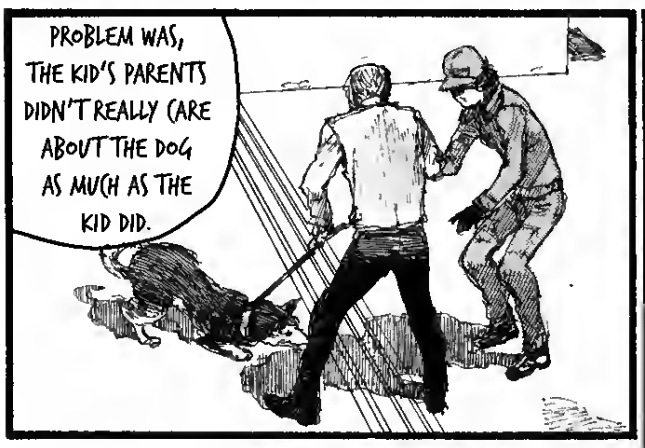
Your navi-gizmo attached itself to that mutt?!
I think it's him.
What?! Seriously?!
HEY, SHOW SOME RESPECT!
Hum...
You call it luck, but having to put up with that walking corpse?
But that's incredible! You got lucky for once!
THEN I TELECLONED MYSELF...
Я чайка
I REMEMBER THAT WE WERE TOGETHER UNTIL WE REACHED THE VAN ALLEN BELT...
I'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT TOO, Y'KNOW!
But what the hell is the navi-gizmo doing on that dog?

I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF TALKING HERE...
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALREADY STOPPED GIVING A CRAP ABOUT ME, HUH ..?
Is it me, or...?
Yeah, probably ...
AND ON TOP OF THAT, I HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED TO LATCH ON AT THE SAME TIME SHE TOOK HUMAN FORM SO...
UUH... I CAN'T PULL MYSELF OUT!
WHEN I CAME TO, I SAW THAT MY PARTNER HAD MATERIALIZED EFFIN' FAR FROM WHERE I WAS!
WAIT, WHAT!?

SORRY, PAL.. EVEN IF I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER IT, IT'D STILL BE EFFIN' DERELICTION OF DUTY."
...And as a consequence, so am I...
I see... You're in a bit of a mess...

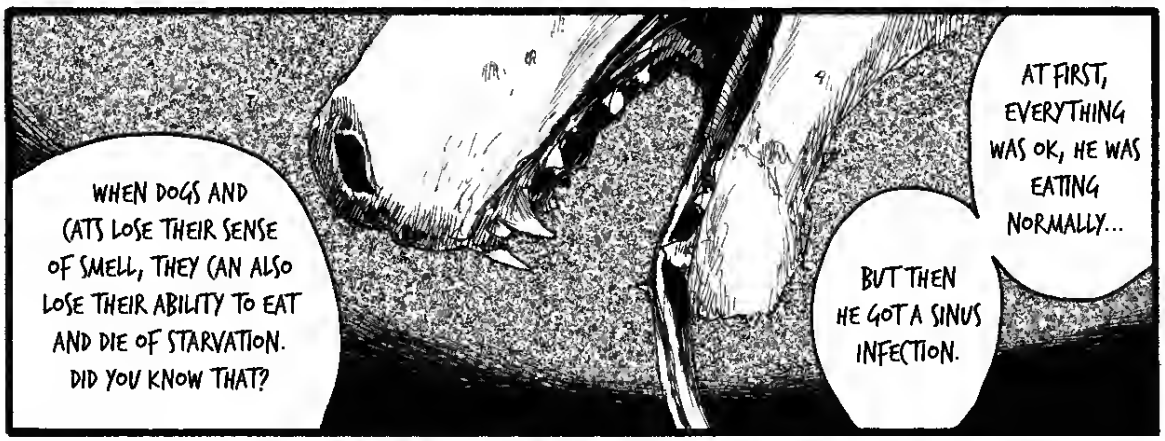

WELL, FOR US...
WE'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO SPEAK AND BEHAVE IN A WAY THAT ROUGHLY STICKS TO THE SPECIES, SEX AND AGE OF OUR HOST.
Yeah, I've been told.
THE WAY THAT HYOS AND HER LOOK WERE DEFINED WHEN THEY FIRST APPEAR BEFORE SOMEONE. YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
AAAH... VERY GOOD POINT.
There's something I don't understand... Triazole has a navigator too, but she doesn't speak like you at all.

HIS MEMORIES ARE SLOWLY EATING MINE UP, Y'SEE.
THE ASSIMILATION PROCESS HAS GOTTEN PRETTY FAR THESE LAST THREE DAYS....
NOW WHEN I SAY "I", I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M TALKING ABOUT ME OR THE DOG ANYMORE.
AND AS YOU CAN SEE, I LANDED ON THIS BLOODY ZOMBIE-DOG ...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I GET IT.
IT'S LIKE A TRUCK DRIVER ENDING UP BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A GODDAMN BEETLE... YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?!
YOU THINK I'M HAVING A GOOD TIME?!


PROBLEM WAS, THE KID'S PARENTS DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THE DOG AS MUCH AS THE KID DID.

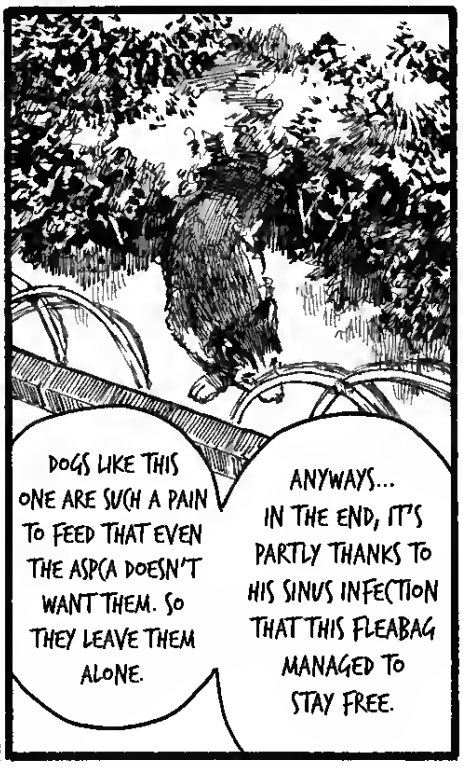
BIT THAT WAS UNTIL THE KID WHO WAS TAKING CARE OF HIM DIED IN AN ACCIDENT...
JUST A YEAR AGO, HE WAS LIVING HAPPILY IN THE MANSION OF A PETITE BOURGEOIS FAMILY.

AND HE WANDERED AROUND FOR A YEAR, BARELY EATING ANYTHING.
SO THE MUTT RAN AWAY WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE TO GO.


WHEN DOGS AND CATS LOSE THEIR SENSE OF SMELL, THEY CAN ALSO LOSE THEIR ABILITY TO EAT AND DIE OF STARVATION. DID YOU KNOW THAT?
AT FIRST, EVERYTHING WAS OK, HE WAS EATING NORMALLY...
BUT THEN HE GOT A SINUS INFECTION.

...THAT DREW ME TO HIM BEFORE I COMPLETELY MATERIALIZED.

FUCK, I'M SO HUNGRY RIGHT NOW ...
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD EAT.
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE IT WAS THE CRY FROM THE HEART OF THIS DOG...


DOGS LIKE THIS ONE ARE SUCH A PAIN TO FEED THAT EVEN THE ASPCA DOESN'T WANT THEM. SO THEY LEAVE THEM ALONE.
ANYWAYS... IN THE END, IT'S PARTLY THANKS TO HIS SINUS INFECTION THAT THIS FLEABAG MANAGED TO STAY FREE.

WHO THE FUCK EVER SAID THAT?!
I see... Seems like you're living a pretty fulfilling life in a way now, though.

I DON'T THINK DOGS CAN RECEIVE WELFARE BENEFITS
I get the feeling that every dude in this manga is a hopeless loser...
SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON WITH THIS WORLD?!
WHERE'S MY ALLOWANCE ?!
I HAVE TO FIGHT THE CROWS EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING TO FIND SOMETHING TO EAT IN THE DUMPSTERS! I DIDN'T COME TO THIS FUCKIN' PLANET FOR THAT!!

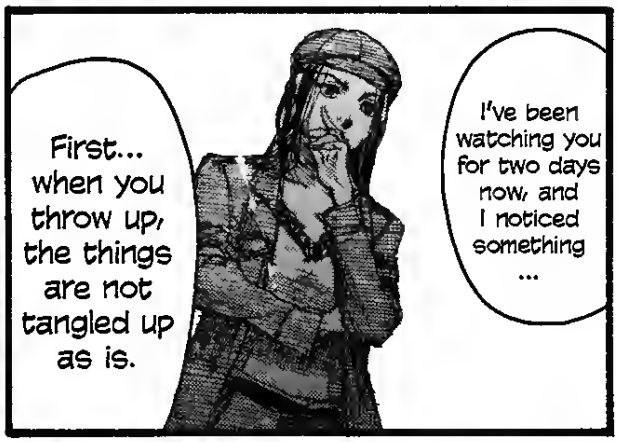
Hyos!

I'D LIKE TO, BELIEVE ME...
I CAN'T SEE SHIT, YOU IDIOT!
I've got a simple solution for you...
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, MY TENTACLES ARE STUCK..

But...
don't you want to attach yourself to Hyos now?

I can eat this dog?
WAT?
Sure!
JUST LIKE YOU ATE MY CELLPHONE.
BOSSIN TAN'

They're split up into different pieces, and then they get reconstructed.
Plus...


First... when you throw up, the things are not tangled up as is.
I've been watching you for two days now, and I noticed something ...

In other words, with a bit of luck...
...the navigator may remain within you.
SWISH
GLARE
...sometimes, you don't regurgitate everything you've swallowed.

SKRAWK
HEY... HOLD ON.
IT'S ALL FINE AND DANDY TO TALK ABOUT THEORETICALS, BUT THIS SEEMS SUPER RISKY TO ME. WHAT IF IT GOES WRONG? WHAT WILL HAPPE...
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
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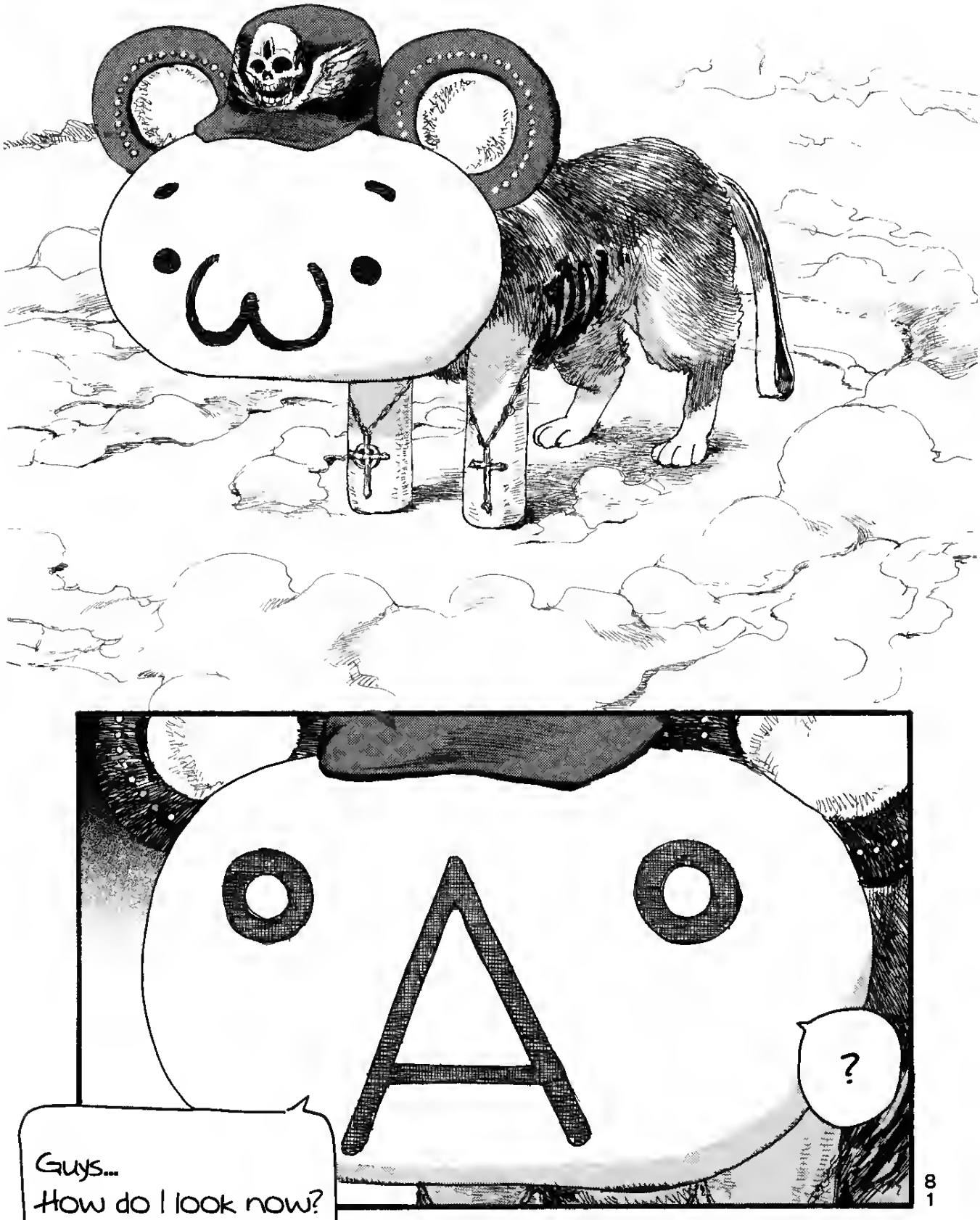
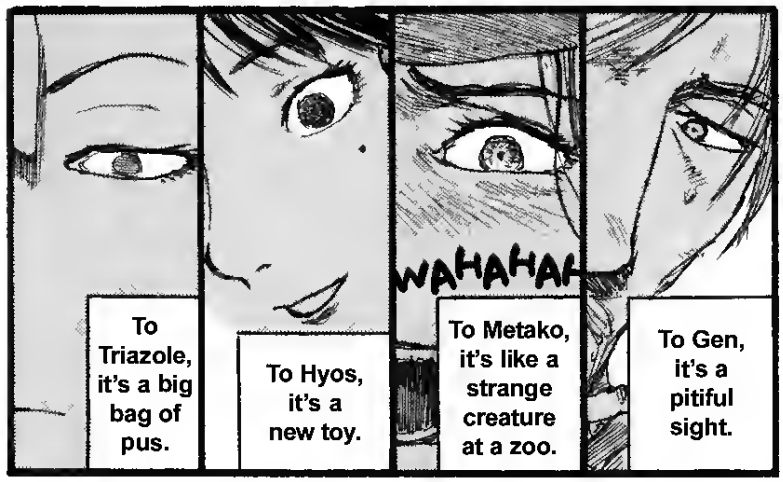
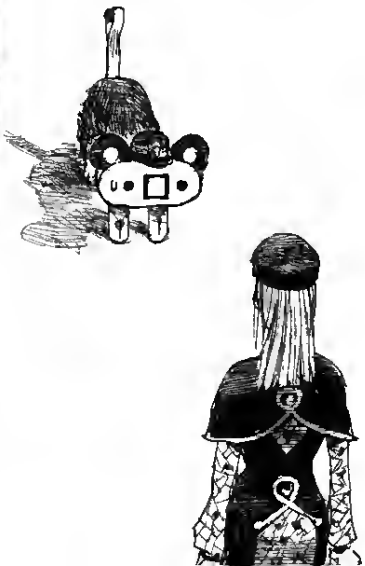
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
He's crossed the Rubicon River.
The die is cast...


Guys...
How do I look now?
?

Don't make that face! It's like the end of "The Fly"!
Huh?! What?! Hey...
Uh...
DOG + CELLPHONE + PUFFED CORN SNACK + DRAGONS MASCOT = ...
X HUSKY DOG
ASCII DOG

No! No need to give it another shot, it's perfect like this!
Professor Sullivan!!
WHA HA HA HA HA
SHOW US THE WAY!
THIS WAS MY IDEA, SO I FIGURED I COME CHECK ON YOU GUYS.
What are you lot goofing around for?
Freak out level: Intergalactic


To Triazole, it's a big bag of pus.
To Hyos, it's a new toy.
WAHAHAH
To Metako, it's like a strange creature at a zoo.
To Gen, it's a pitiful sight.



#3 NAVIGATOR END

Translation notes

059
"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion.": quote from the movie "Blade Runner".

062
"Sora no Manimani": title of an anime series about astronomy.

066
"When I'll starve like a dog on the roadside...": excerpt from the song "Navigator" by the Japanese punk band "The Blue Hearts".

067
"These snacks are already cooked, so they won't go bad right away.": a nod to the "Hadashi no Gen" series.

069
"Bad end": this panel parodies the game over screens from the "Sound Novel" games series (published by Spike Chunsoft).

071
"Ragged ostrich": reference to the poem "A Ragged Ostrich" (Boroboro na Dachou) by Kotaro Takamura. "Having him as our boss is gonna be expensive": quote from "Akira" by Katushiro Otomo.

073
"But when Shishimaru hunts, he does so with all his might, even if it's just for a rabbit...": reference to the manga "Ninja Hattori-kun" by Fujiko Fujio. The rest is also a reference to another manga by the same author: "Kiteretsu Daihyakka".

076
The fourth panel is a parody of the cover of first volume of the "Phantom Blood" arc from "Jojo's Bizarre Adventure".

078
"Where's my allowance?": originally "What the hell is Masuzoe doing?". Masuzoe is a politician, at the time of the series he was the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare.

079
"Bosin-tan": Bosintang is a korean dish that can be served with dog meat.

082
"Professor Sullivan": from "Hellen Keller".

Τρανσλατιον: Ικκψυσαν, Λαικα
Τψπεσεττινγ: σηαδεσ7000, βυν
Ρεδραωινγ: Ικκψυσαν, Νερο, Σχαρλετ
ΡΑΩ: ειτο